

HEPPNER 50¢ Gazette Times

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Heppner softball takes district championship



The Heppner Mustang softball team. (Back L-R): Cidney Coster and Lizzy Rill. Middle (L-R): Joslynn Troxell, Micha Hintz, Natalie Rauch, Tessa Gould, Larissa Gray, Cassi Day Maggie Collins, Samm Lemmon and Nicole Kempken. (Sitting front L-R): Hannah Lovgren, Baily Bennett and Makenzie Correa. —Photo by Sandy Matthews

The Heppner Mustang softball team took the district championship title with a score of 7-4 in the game against the Irrigon Knights last Saturday.

Baily Bennett took the

“Player of the Year” award along with Cassi Day, first-string infielder. Micha Hintz and Natalie Rauch were honored as “Honorable Mention” players.

The Mustangs play against the Oakridge Warriors in the first round of state finals this Wednesday at 4:30 p.m. at the softball field in Heppner.

Boyd to face Rea in November

Kandy Boyd may have lost the recent primary race to Leann Rea for Morrow County Commissioner but, thanks to write-ins, she will get another crack at Rea in the November general election.

Boyd and Rea were both running as Democrats

in the recent concluded primary, and Rea garnered 320 votes to Boyd’s 241. All else being equal, that would have made the race over.

However, with no one filed on the Republican side, Republicans gave

Boyd the Republican nomination by write-in.

Though Boyd has yet to accept the nomination, which can be done later, that means there’s a good chance Boyd and Rea will face off once again in the November election.

County election results

During the primary election on May 15, several Morrow County positions and measures were on the line. County voters cast 2,201 ballots, 646 of which were Democrat, 1,154 Republican and 401 nonpartisan. The unofficial results for the Morrow County contests in the election are as follows.

County Commissioner Position No. 1 (Democrat)

Leann Rea, Heppner, won the Democratic primary with 320 votes. Kandy Boyd, Heppner, received 241.

County Surveyor

Stephen K. Haddock, Pilot Rock, won with 778 votes; Judson L. Coppock, Lexington, received 761.

Measure 25-60 Town of Lexington Amendment to Town Charter of Lexington, Oregon

Question: Shall Lexington Amend its current charter?

The measure passed with 43 yes votes; 21 ballots were cast against the measure.

Measure 25-61 Town of Lexington Five Year Local Option Tax for Street Operations

Question: Shall Lexington impose a \$.62 per \$1,000 of assessed value for five years for Street Operations beginning in 2012-2013? This measure may cause property taxes to increase more than three percent.

The measure passed by a close margin of 33 yes, 31 no.

Measure 25-62 Morrow County School District Renewal of Local Option Serial Levy

Question: Shall School

District levy \$1 per \$1000 assessed value each year for five years beginning 2012-13 for operations and programs? This measure may cause property taxes to increase more than 3 percent.

Measure 25-63 Lone Library District Permanent Tax Rate Limit

Question: Shall the district be authorized to impose \$.25 per \$1,000 of assessed value as a permanent rate limit beginning 2012-13?

The measure passed with 150 yes votes and 69 no votes.

Complete Morrow County primary election results are available at <http://morrowcountyoregon.com/county-clerk/>.

Rainy days and rainbows



The rainy weather early in the week not only gave a welcome boost to growing things, it also provided some spectacular sights, like this faint double rainbow captured by Ann Morter near Lone.

Health district holds budget hearing

By April Sykes

The Morrow County Health District Board held a budget hearing for the district’s 2012-13 budget Monday night in Heppner. The budget will be presented for adoption at the June meeting.

The budget was approved with one change to the positive. Chief Financial Officer Nicole Mahoney reported that the district will receive an additional \$125,000 from Medicaid in electronic medical record reimbursement this coming year, which will improve

the district’s bottom line. The district will receive an additional \$100,000 the next fiscal year and \$25,000 the year after.

She earlier estimated that the district would lose approximately \$66,047 in the 2012-13 fiscal year, which would come from the district’s cash carryover. Mahoney said previously that the proposed budget was based on very conservative estimates.

In other positive news, the district ended the month of April with a \$22,826 gain.

At the meeting, CEO Michael Blauer reported to the board that the plans for the Irrigon Clinic remodel are being wrapped up and will be ready for review before being let out for bid.

Blauer and Director of Nursing Services Molly Rhea said that, while they are getting close to working out the kinks in the federally-mandated electronic medical records system, some problems still remain.

“It wasn’t glitch-free — See HEALTH DIST./PAGE SIX

Six area education staff to be honored

The InterMountain Education Service District will honor six Morrow County education employees during the 13th annual Crystal Apple “Excellence in Education” ceremony May 23 at the Pendleton Red Lion. The staff members from the lone and Morrow County school districts are among 36

employees who will be recognized at the ceremony.

Morrow County crystal apple winners are Ryan Rudolf, lone MS/HS social studies teacher employed with lone schools for 13 years; Ashley McCabe, lone school custodian employed with the lone School District for one year; Troy Morgan, Heppner High School math teach-

er for five years; Marilyn Post, AC Houghton Elementary School third-grade teacher, with the school district for 35 years; Anne Orcutt, Sam Boardman Elementary ELL education assistant, 21 years with the MCS; and Ginger Bowman, Heppner High School library tech, with 31 years with the dis- — See CRYSTAL APPLE/PAGE EIGHT



Ryan Rudolf



Troy Morgan



Marilyn Post



Ashley McCabe



Ginger Bowman



Anne Orcutt

Morrow County voters approve replacement levy

Voters approved a replacement levy for the Morrow County School District during the May 15 primary election, according to unofficial results from the Morrow County Elections Office. The approval will bring the district approximately \$450,000 per year for the next five years, with a tax rate of \$1 per \$1,000 assessed property value from tax payers. The levy replaced another levy that

was approved by voters in 2009, which has allowed the district to maintain elective programs.

“We’re very appreciative of the voters in Morrow County for turning out to show their continued support for our schools,” said Dirk Dirksen, superintendent of the Morrow County School District.

Unofficial results indicate voters in Morrow County approved the levy

replacement with 60 percent of the vote.

With the levy’s approval, tax payers will continue to pay the same tax rate as with the previous levy. The district will continue to be able to fund elective programs with the replacement levy, including elementary music and physical education, art, Vo-Ag, music, Spanish, business, technology and industrial arts.

G-T closed Memorial Day

The Heppner Gazette-Times office will be closed Memorial Day, May 28 for the holiday. All news and ad deadlines will be the previous Friday, May 25, by 5 p.m. The newspaper office will reopen on Tuesday, May 29.

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